

## Media Release

***Money Invested, Money Saved - students, families, and taxpayers the winners from non-government school funding***

A new report from the Kathleen Burrow Research Institute, Catholic Schools NSW's research unit, shows that Australian taxpayers save billions each year when the Government supports the mixed model provision of schooling (Government, Catholic, and Independent) by investing in non-government education in Australia.

The report, [\*Money Invested, Money Saved\*](#), calculates the savings to Australian taxpayers when the Government decides to partially fund non-government schools in Australia. It reveals that when all schools receive their full funding entitlement under the *Australian Education Act* formula, savings to taxpayers will be \$6.88 billion each year in recurrent funding. These savings include \$2.19 billion for primary students and \$4.69 billion for secondary students. Catholic schools make up \$3.19 billion of these savings, and Independent schools \$3.69 billion. On average, it would cost taxpayers 31% more per student to educate these children in government schools.

The report comes at a time when enrolments are decreasing in the government sector and increasing in the non-government sector. According to the latest statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, almost 37 per cent of Australian school students are in non-government schools and in the case of Catholic Education, it supports nearly 20 per cent of students across the country, and over one in five students in NSW.

Dallas McInerney, CEO of Catholic Schools NSW, said that the report is an opportunity to realise how the current non-government school funding model contributes to school choice in Australia.

'Australia has a winning formula for school funding. Government schools have commitments of full funding, underpinning the importance of public education. Non-government schools are also assisted by Governments, allowing Catholic schools to serve a growing number of families and communities with high-quality schooling via parental choice.'

'Parents' selection of a non-government education is an exercise in deciding which school offers the best educational environment for their child, while also a decision that financially relieves the taxpayer. Likewise, governments rightly invest in the public and personal good that is each student's education, which upholds genuine school choice, and recognises that every child is worth investing in – no matter the school they attend.'

'In Australian Schools, parents value choice; likewise, all Australian taxpayers value their savings. This is a game where every Australian is a winner.'

*Catholic Schools NSW represents the state's 593 Catholic schools and their 271,000 students.*

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